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# ENG 5025-001: Creative Writing Professional Development

Olga Abella

*Eastern Illinois University*

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## ENGLISH 5025

Dr. Olga Abella (oabella@eiu.edu)  
3325 Coleman (6297)

Office Hours: TR 12:30-2; F 11-1  
and by appointment

I. **TEXTS:**

*Bird by Bird* (BBB)

*The Creative Writer's Survival Guide* (CWSG)

- II. **COURSE PURPOSE:** The main focus of this seminar is to prepare your work for public presentation, and for publication. Discussions will include your "voice" and how to develop it orally for an audience; writing cover letters and bios for publishing your work; researching venues for publishing your work; preparing a manuscript for submission; reactions and impressions of literary events you are required to attend, and readings assigned in class; and your future as a writer. As a final project, the class will test their honed voices by giving a public reading.

III. **ASSIGNMENTS** (with appropriate grade % for each):

**Participation:** The main focus of this class is **your** writing. We will spend most of the semester discussing your work and the presentation of your work in readings and for publication. Your response to one another's writing is a crucial part of class, as are your observations and insights on the readings and projects assigned. As each other's audience you will provide constructive and specific feedback that will support each other in your endeavors to grow as writers and as professionals. (40%)

**Submitting Work:** You will each focus on a creative work that you will workshop in class to prepare for publishing. You will also research possible venues (and narrow down the possibilities to at least 5) for submission of your work, write cover letters, and submit your work. You will also discuss with the class your reasons for your choice of journals. Learning which journal is more likely to accept your style of writing is the first major hurdle to getting published. (30%)

**Reading of Work:** Presenting your work before an audience takes practice. You need to learn how to read your work aloud effectively so your listeners can hear, understand and appreciate your work, and you will practice responding to an audience. At the end of the semester you will present your work in a public reading. (30%)

- IV. **ATTENDANCE:** If you don't come to class, there basically is no class, since class is about your writing and your comments about your classmates' writing.

**Basically, the class is about you. Having more than 2 unexcused absences will result in a failing participation grade.**

- V. **LATE WORK:** All assignments are due on the dates specified. Lateness will result in a lower grade. If you cannot complete an assignment on time, you must see me **before** it is due.

- VI. **FINAL NOTE:** If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disabilities Services (6583) as soon as possible.

- Aug. 23 Introduction; Class setup
- 30 Researching Journals and Magazines: Where to publish.  
**CWSG** 67-72, 79-93, 247
- Sept. 6 workshop; **BBB** 151-171
- 13 workshop
- 20 workshop; Research Due: Journals/Magazines, print or online (5)
- 27 Sending out your work: Cover letter, Bio, Format  
Rejection Letters; **BBB** 116-130
- Oct. 4 The Hustle: Networking; **CWSG** 152-67
- 11 Graduate School: MFA, PhD; **CWSG** Part 2 (except 32-37)
- 18 Teaching Creative Writing; **CWSG** 195-215
- 25 Reading Aloud; Your favorite poet/writer: Bring 3 poems,  
or 1 chapter or 1 short essay
- Nov. 1 workshop
- 8 workshop
- 15 workshop
- 22 Thanksgiving Break
- 29 workshop
- Dec. 6 Being a Writer; **CWSG** Part 6; **BBB** 185-221